



Foreign Relations, Foreign Relations, 1969-1976, Documents on South Asia, 1969-1972

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DRAFTED BY: NEA/INC:DTSCHNEIDER
APPROVED BY: THE SECRETARY
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PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO FONMIN DINESH SINGH:

QUOTE -DEAR MR.FOREIGN MINISTER: DURING THE PAST YEAR I BELIEVE WE HAVE DEVELOPED A RELATIONSHIP WHICH-PERMITS US TO DISCUSS ISSUES BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS WITH UTMOST CANDOR. IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT I RAISE A QUESTION WHICH IS GIVING ME SERIOUS CONCERN.

THIS RELATES TO THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WITHOUT ANY PRIOR CONSULTATION TO REQUEST THE CLOSURE OF CERTAIN US CULTURAL CENTERS, A DECISION WHICH I REGRET. I READ TODAY OF STATEMENTS BY YOUR GOVERNMENT THAT THIS DECISION HAD BEEN BASED UPON AN INVESTIGATION OF ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTERS WHICH WAS "NOT FAVORABLE"; AND THAT CERTAIN CENTERS HAD BEEN ENGAGED IN "POLITICAL AND OTHER UNDESIRABLE ACTIVITIES". I SHOULD MUCH APPRECIATE ANY CLARIFICATION YOU CAN PROVIDE ME REGARDING THE MEANING OF THESE STATEMENTS. DO THEY REFER TO US ACTIVITIES? TO MY KNOWLEDGE THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS NEVER INFORMED THE

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US OF ANY ACTIVITIES BY US CULTURAL CENTERS WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IMPROPER. THESE CENTERS HAVE FUNCTIONED OPENLY WITH THE FULL KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. AS ELLIOT RICHARDSON TOLD YOUR CHARGE TODAY, AT NO TIME TO OUR KNOWLEDGE HAVE US CULTURAL CENTERS IN INDIA BEEN ENGAGED IN ANY IMPROPER ACTIVITY. I AM PREPARED TO EXAMINE EVIDENCE, AND ITS SOURCE, THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE TO THE CONTRARY.

I KNOW YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT MATTERS SUCH AS THIS CAN HAVE AN EFFECT UPON THE CLIMATE OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. IT HAS ALREADY ATTRACTED PUBLIC NOTICE IN THIS COUNTRY. I RAISE THESE QUESTIONS KNOWING THAT WE BOTH DESIRE TO AVOID UNNECESSARY FRICTIONS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP. SINCERELY YOURS, WILLIAM P. ROGERS - END-QUOTE.

GP-3 ROGERS

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